

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BANGKO 08694 141648Z

51

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

IO-10 AID-05 /071 W

----- 014356

R 140155Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4160

AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI

AMCONSUL UDORN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 8694

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (ADDITIONAL TEXT)

E. O. 11652: 11652: AGDS DECLASSIFY MAY 31, 1975

TAGS: PINS, TH

SUBJ: PHO SU: THE SURRENDER AT RAMAN

SONGKHLA 063 OF MAY 12 BEING REPEATED FOR INFO: QUOTE:

R 120900Z MAY 75

FM AMCONSUL SONGKHLA

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SONGKHLA 063

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, TH

SUBJ: PHO SU: THE SURRENDER AT RAMAN

REF : SONGKHLA 60 SONGKHLA 52

SUMMARY: ALLEGED BANDIT/SEPARATIST LEADER PHO SU AND
76 OTHERS TURNED THEMSELVES IN TO THE RTG DURING CERE-
MONIES AT RAMAN DISTRICT OF YALA PROVINCE MAY 8. MOST
OF THE SURRENDERED PERSONNEL WERE NEW RECRUITS, NOT HARDENED
BANDITS. MUTUAL SUSPICIONS BETWEEN THE SECURITY AUTHOR-
ITIES AND PHO SU'S GROUP STILL REMAIN. THIS SURRENDER,
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BANGKO 08694 141648Z

THUS, IS ONLY THE BEGINNING OF A DELICATE PROCESS TO

FIND A NONVIOLENT END TO PART OF THAILAND'S INTERNAL SECURITY PROBLEMS IN THE SOUTH. END SUMMARY.

I. THE RAMAN CEREMONIES

1. ALLEGED BANDIT AND MUSLIM SEPARATIST LEADER PHO SU WAMAEDISA AND 76 OTHER TURNED THEMSELVES IN TO RTG AUTHORITIES AS SCHEDULED ON MAY 8. LEADERS OF FOUR ARMED GROUPS WITH CLOSE CONTACTS TO PHO SU WHO ALSO GAVE THEMSELVES UP WERE: (1) PHO CHI UNON, MID-TWENTIES, HAS A REPUTATION FOR BRAVERY UNDER FIRE: (2) SAMA-AE MANA (OR GOLOK) 34 YEARS OLD, PHO SU'S SON-IN-LAW: (3) NARONG NIRANPHUT (OR PHEN) EARLY THIRTIES, BORN SAIBURI DISTRICT, PATTANI, IS A THAI CONVERTED TO ISLAM: AND (4) KAMNAN WAMI SAMA, 45 YEARS OLD, CHIEF OF TADONG CANTON WHICH CONTAINS PHO SU'S HOME VILLAGE. ALL THESE MEN ARE LEADERS OF 30 TO 40 MEN GROUPS. SEACH APPEARED AT THE SURRENDER CEREMONIES WITH 5 TO 10 MEN FROM HIS GROUP.

2. REPRESENTING THE GOVERNMENT WERE: WIANG SAKONSIN, INSPECTOR, MINISTRY OF INTERIOR, RAMAN DISTRICT OFFICER 4 OR 5 YEARS AGO: PRICHA KOSONPHAN, INSPECTOR, PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE; CHAN PHANCHAROEN, GOVERNOR OF PATTANI: SA-NE WATTHANAPHAN, GOVERNOR OF YALA: SAK KOSAIYAKANON, INSPECLOR, DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL ADMINISTRATION AND UTHAI INTHARASUKAN, RAMAN DISTRICT OFFICER. REPRESENTING ARMY COMMANDER GENERAL KRIT SIWARA WERE: LT. COLONEL NOPPHAN MUTTAMARA AND COMMANDER SAMAI BUNNAK.

3. WHEN IT CAME HIS TURN TO ADDRESS THE ASSEMBLY OF OFFICIALS, FOLLOWERS, AND NEWSPAPERMEN AT RAMAN, PHO SU PLEDGED HIS INNOCENCE, WILLINGNESS TO ABIDE THE LAWS, AND COOPERATION WITH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS.

II. THE RESULTS

4. THE 77 FORMER BANDITS TURNED IN 37 WEAPONS, INCLUDING 26 M-16'S. ALL WEAPONS HAD FULL MAGAZINES. THE RAMAN DISTRICT OFFICE WILL REGISTER THE WEAPONS AND RETURN THEM
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BANGKO 08694 141648Z

TO THEIR OWNERS.

5. ALL 77 RETURNED HOME AFTER THE CEREMONIES WITH DOCUMENTATION OF THE GOVERNMENT'S GUARANTEE OF THEIR SAFETY, IF THEY STAY IN YALA PROVINCE. ACCORDING TO OFFICIALS WITH WHOM WE SPOKE, THE NEXT STEP IS UP TO THE PARLIAMENT WHICH IS SUPPOSED TO CONSIDER AN AMNESTY BILL WHEN THE ASSEMBLY RECONVENES ON JUNE 24.

6. AS WITH THE EARLIER BUNLOET-PYO SU MEETING
(REF B), THE BANGKOK SIDE VISITED PHO SU'S VILLAGE MAY 9.

III. COMMENTS

7. EXCEPT FOR PHO SU AND THE ABOVE MENTIONED LEADERS,
MOST OF THE OTHERS WHO TURNED THEMSELVES IN WERE NEW
RECRUITS, NOT HARDENED BANDIT VETERANS. THE BANDITS
ARE WAITING FOR THE RTG'S PROGRAM TO UNFOLD. OFFICIALS
ACKNOWLEDGED TO US THAT THERE IS MORE IMPORTANT GAME IN
THE JUNGLE WATCHING THE GOVERNMENT'S TREATMENT OF PHO SU.
ANOTHER INDICATION OF BANDIT RETICENCE IS THE SMALL NUMBER
OF WEAPONS TURNED OVER.

8. MAJOR GENERAL AMPHON CHITPATIMA, COMMANDER, PROVINCIAL
POLICE REGION 9, DOWNPLAYED THE IMPORTANCE OF PHO SU'S
SURRENDER TO ME ON MAY 12. HE ARGUED THAT PHO SU WAS
SMALL POTATOES WHOSE DEFECTION HARDLY DECREASED THE
INTERNAL SECURITY THREAT. NEVERTHELESS, PHO SU'S GROUP
HID THEIR GUNS BEFORE THEY CAME IN. AMPHON
CHARACTERISED THE LENIENT POLICY SHOWN PHO SU A RESULT
OF POLITICAL INTERFERENCE WITH GOOD SUPPRESSION POLICY.

9. AMPHON'S SOUR GRAPES AND THE BANDITS' SHEDDING OF
VIRTUALLY ONLY THEIR RECRUITS ARE REFLECTIONS OF MUTUAL
SUSPICIONS WHICH REMAIN IN THE SOUTH. POLICE AND
SECURITY AUTHORITIES ARE NOT COMPLETELY RECONCILED TO
BANGKOK'S POLICIES. CIVILIAN OFFICIALS WITH WHOM WE
HAVE SPOKEN LATELY STILL ARE CAUTIOUS ABOUT THE MEANING
OF PHO SU'S SURRENDER. BANGKOK'S CONCILIATORY POLICIES
HAVE A NUMBER OF HURDLES ON BOTH SIDES. CERTAINLY,
DESPITE WISHFUL REPORTING IN THE PRESS, IT IS DOUBTFUL
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 BANGKO 08694 141648Z

THAT A BANDIT DEFECTION BANDWAGON HAS BEGUN.
REUTHER UNQUOTE MASTERS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SURRENDER, AMNESTY, PENAL SYSTEM, PRISONERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BANGKO08694
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: AS SIFY MAY 31, 1975
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750169-0555
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750551/aaaabtqh.tel
Line Count: 156
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 SONGKHLA 60, 75 SONGKHLA 52
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 JUL 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <24 JUL 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PHO SU: THE SURRENDER AT RAMAN SONGKHLA 063 OF MAY 12 BEING REPEATED FOR INFO: QUOTE
TAGS: PINS, TH, (PHO SU)
To: STATE UDORN
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006